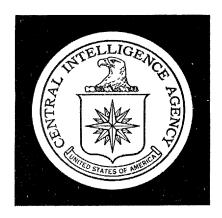
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Philippines: Marcos reportedly has approved further withdrawal of Philippine forces from Vietnam.	

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PHILIPPINES: PRESIDENT MARCOS IS REPORTED TO HAVE APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE A FURTHER REDUCTION OF THE PHILIPPINE PRESENCE IN VIETNAM.

ABOUT 200 PERSONNEL OF THE PHILIPPINE CIVIC ACTION GROUP IN VIETNAM HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN AND

NOT REPLACED SINCE MID-MARCH.

PHILIPPINE COM-THE MANDER IN VIETNAM HAS SUGGESTED A FURTHER REDUCTION TO 1,400 FROM THE PRESENT STRENGTH OF 1,800. RETARY OF DEFENSE MATA HAS PROPOSED THE WITHDRAWAL • SHTNOM XIZ BMOZ RBVO NBBW RBHTO YRBVB NBM EE RO

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THE FILIPINOS HAVE TRIED TO JUSTIFY THE PRO-JECTED REDUCTION BY POINTING TO RECENT US STATE-MENTS CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL OF SOME US FORCES AFTER SOUTH VIETNAMESE COMBAT STRENGTH HAS BEEN INCREASED.

MARCOS MAY HOPE THAT BY AGREEING TO FURTHER REDUCTIONS HE CAN IMPROVE CHANCES FOR PASSAGE OF AN APPROPRIATION BILL THAT HAS BEEN STALLED IN THE SENATE FOR OVER TWO MONTHS, BUT PASSAGE BEFORE THE END OF THE REGULAR CONGRESSIONAL SESSION ON 16 MAY BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE MARCOS APPEARS UNLIKELY. HAS PUBLICLY ATTACHED TO THE VIETNAM GROUP ISSUE, HE MAY FEEL OBLIGED TO CALL A SPECIAL SESSION OF CONGRESS NEXT MONTH TO ACT ON THE MATTER.

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